



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**CLOSING IN ON HIM...**Raiders Quarryee Bull, No. 1, Aaron Lee, No. 25, and Devon Glover, No. 5, close in on Cougar Tommy Trotter.

## Cougars Rattle Raiders, 56-41

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

while Jack McCaffrey and Luke Christiano each grabbed five and Cameron Kutzer pulled four.

"He gets a lot of rebounds for us, a lot of put backs. Helps a lot through the course of the game," McCaffrey said of Oblachinski.

Chris Gibbons led the 8-8 Raiders with seven rebounds and nine points. Leo Ramos (4 points) and Quarryee Bull (2 points) each had six rebounds. Rashan Gary netted eight points, Jack Poillon sank seven and Andrew Voysey added five points.

"They were hurting us on the boards. They are strong kids. Football, even the baseball kids are strong kids. We got to get in the weight room to play against kids like that," Coach Doherty said.

"We tried to stay focused and box out. That's one of our main things, because most of the games that we don't win, we end up not being able to box out. That always seems to be an important factor," McCaffrey said.

McCaffrey was a major recipient of the assists and cashed in on them to lead all scorers with 22 points, half of them in the first quarter alone. He was also the "Chief Thief" with five steals.

"My team was finding the open looks for me. We were really looking to get the ball to the hoop on the zone, because they were really spread out and we could find a lot of gaps. My team used it well and found a lot of passes to give me easy looks," said McCaffrey, who also had two assists.

Trotter finished with nine points and four assists, while Christiano (5 points) and Kutzer each had four assists. Guarriello finished with eight points.

The Raiders seized the offensive

initiative and scooted to a 9-4 lead midway through the first quarter with Poillon hitting for four, Gibbons sinking a 3-pointer and Ramos hitting for two, while McCaffrey had the Cougars' four points. But McCaffrey came back with a 3-pointer and a 2-pointer and Guarriello rolled in a lay-up to give Cranford an 11-9 lead with 1:40 on the clock. The quarter ended, 15-13, Cranford.

The lead jostled back-and-forth in the second quarter but both teams added 10 points giving the Cougars a 25-23 edge at the break. The third quarter and the 13-3 run began with McCaffrey hitting a two and Oblachinski sinking a pair of free throws. With a Raider timeout at 2:34 on the clock, the Cougars led, 38-26. Gary rolled in a pair of lay-ups and Gibbons sank a two, while McCaffrey banged a three to make the score, 41-32, entering the fourth quarter.

The Raiders were unable to gain ground and trailed, 51-41, with 1:52 remaining, setting the stage for some necessary fouling. McCaffrey sank a pair of free throws. Oblachinski sank one then Guarriello finished it off with a smooth lay-up after Christiano's assist.

"No one is really too worried about who scores the most. I'm usually not the leading scorer, and that's fine by me as long as we keep winning. That's all that really matters," McCaffrey said.

"We are trying to find the right combination. Young kids, trying to work them in, don't want to work them too much, just trying to see come tournament time," Coach Doherty said.

Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	13	10	9	9	41
Cranford	15	10	16	15	56



## Devil's Den Sharing a Parallel Universe With One of the Greats

By BRUCE JOHNSON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The late Ral Donner, who grew up near Chicago and sounded a lot like Elvis Presley, had a huge hit song back in 1961 titled "You Don't Know What You've Got (Until You Lose It)."

How true!  
Pete Seeger's influence on everyone's life was enormous, mine included, and even if I barely realized it until Jan. 27, when he died at the age of 94.

We sort of had a way of co-existing in parallel universes. Despite our age difference, we were tuned in to the same way of thinking.

In the first and second grade, I spent too much time in the office of Miss Conrow, the principal at North Long Branch grammar school; her discipline of me I'm sure had something to do with having a school named after her. Around that time, Seeger was spending time appearing before the House Committee on Un-American Activities witch hunt of Senator Joe McCarthy.

When I was being drummed out of the Cub Scouts, he was being indicted on 10 counts of contempt of Congress for his refusal to testify during McCarthy-era Communist witch hunts.

When I was in high school, I used to play the Weaver's "Reunion at Carnegie Hall" vinyl album over and over. I had no idea who the Weavers were or what they were all about. But they were "folksingers" and that was the time of the "Folk Scare" around the country. So anything that upset "the squares" was cool. And one of the original Weavers was Pete Seeger.

While Seeger was helping found an organization to clean up the Hudson River and restoring the sloop Clearwater, I was barely avoiding a court martial and dishonorable discharge for not obeying the Master at Arms - Boomer Reeves ... think Willie Robertson with a third-grade education - aboard the USS Wasp.

Through the '70s and '80s and '90s - as I was being fired from one job after another, seven times all told - Seeger continued to be an "us against the man" inspiration. He was a poster boy for the "doesn't play well with authority figures" in some of us.

Some of my favorite songs of the mid-1960s, it turns out, were written or co-written by Seeger - "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," "If I Had a Hammer," "Turn, Turn, Turn," and the classic "Waist Deep in the Big Muddy."

But I didn't really know about him until "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour" in 1967. The Smothers Brothers show was quite radical, and only the really cool people were their guests.

They were heavy into political satire (think Jon Stewart or Stephen Colbert on steroids) and eventually their show was pulled off the air by CBS after they butted heads one too many times with the power people. The show also featured great musical guests, like Joan Baez, Harry Belafonte, Donovan, Cass Elliot, Peter, Paul and Mary, the Who and the Buffalo Springfield among others.

The Smothers Brothers pulled off a coup for their second-season premiere on Sept. 10 when signed Pete Seeger for his first TV appearance since he'd been blackballed by McCarthy back in 1950. Then, the man stepped in. The CBS brass told Seeger he couldn't sing a particularly anti-Vietnam War, anti-LBJ verse of "Waste Deep in the Big Muddy." Seeger refused to drop it, so his performance was canceled; the Smothers did convince Seeger to perform in a show later that season.

In the event, reading Seeger's obituaries in the *New York Times* and *Philadelphia Inquirer* - his stances on human rights, the environment, his anti-war stance, and his love of flannel shirts - I find myself attracted to him and his ideals more than ever. The guy was in his 90s and still protesting with the Occupy Wall Street gang - needing two walking canes to get around. How cool is that?

### SCARANO TO BE HONORED

Elena Scarano, who earned all-state honors last fall for her play on the 19-3 volleyball team at WHS, will be honored Sunday for her softball play at the Union County Hot Stove League's 78th dinner at L'Affaire Banquet Center in Mountainside. The dinner starts at 1 p.m.

Scarano will receive the Banyasz Brothers Memorial Award as the 2013 Most Valuable Scholastic Softball Player. She had a 15-6 pitching record and batted .314 as the Blue Devils won the Union County Tournament for the first time since 1998.

The Banyasz brothers, John and Steve, grew up in Garwood and graduated from WHS. Steve was a three-sport standout from 1929-30-31 at WHS: a left halfback in football coach Bob Duncan's single-wing attack, the leading scorer two years in basketball and a star pitcher in baseball. Both Banyasz boys played in the old semipro Union County Baseball League.

Guest speaker is Jake Wood, a Thomas Jefferson (Elizabeth) graduate and former big leaguer. Tickets are still available at [www.ucba-nj.org](http://www.ucba-nj.org) or call 908-917-2523.

### BASKETBALL UPDATE

Juniors Lily Scott and Jackie Knapp, the dynamic duo of the girls basketball team, will both become members of the pretty exclusive 1,000-Point Club at WHS very soon, maybe this week. There are currently three WHS girls in the Club - Erin Miller ('08) with 1,580, Krissy Jeremiah ('88) with 1,169 and current assistant coach Liz McKeon ('99) at 1,017.

The girls team finally hit a bump in the road of a long season. After reaching the No. 18 ranking in the state with a 15-0 record, Joe Marino's club fell to Springfield, 46-39, and New Providence, 47-43. WHS led going into the fourth quarter of both games; they were outscored 11-0 by Springfield.

The boys also hit a mid-season slump. After improving to 8-5, they dropped two in a row, including Friday's 52-42 against Elizabeth St. Mary. Dave Kane had 14 and Chris Boutsikaris added 13. WHS has eight or nine guys who can be the top scorers on any given night, and when/if this team gets everyone clicking on the same night, look out.

### WRESTLING UPDATE

SP-F took advantage of three forfeits, and wins in the last two weights, including a meet-clinching major in the finale, to post a 34-33 victory over the Blue Devils in "Pin Cancer" night at the Roost. WHS leads the series 32-22-3.

WHS got pins by Chris Hoerle, Kevin Miller and Jarek Gozdieski, a tech-fall from Nick Kalimtzis, a major from Nick Velez, and wins by John Fuller and Matt Barber, who beat Brian Lapham at 145 in a rematch of the UCT final.

It was poetic justice that senior Matt Ridge won the decisive match for SP-F. In the previous three WHS-SPF matchups, he had been 0-3 - but those losses were to Colin Barber (pin) in 2011 and Brian Bulger the last two years (decision and fall), two pretty tough guys. The 4-0 loss to Bulger in 2012 also came in the night's final bout of WHS's 33-27 win.

### SWIMMING UPDATE

Stephen Husch has swum on four of the eight fastest medley relays in WHS history. What makes that even more impressive is that he's swum a different stroke on all four relays.

The junior swam butterfly on the third fastest (1:37.90, with Dave Lindros, Tyler Lessner and Aram Barmakian), backstroke on the fourth fastest (1:37.94, with Lessner,

*Probitas Verus Honos*

Barmakian and John Lindros), freestyle on the seventh fastest (1:38.12, with Max Shin, Lessner and Brennan Haley) and breaststroke on the eighth fastest (1:38.40, with Shin, Haley and Matt Daniel). Husch currently is the No. 5 all-time in butterfly, No. 9 in backstroke and the No. 7 breaststroker on the Top 15 List.

The top two medley relays all-time were in 1992 (1:37.28) and '93 (1:37.80). Darren Hertell, Dave Schwartz and Tom Mann were the first three legs on both, with Sean Schaefer the '92 anchor and Danny Zemsky in '93.

The boys are top-seeded in North 2 Public A (and the entire state) and will face Bayonne today in the opening round of the state tournament. They could face SP-F in Monday's semifinals.

Meanwhile, the girls, despite owning a 62-meet win streak and 67-meet unbeaten streak, are the second seed in North 2 Public A, behind Hunterdon Central. (Ironically, WHS beat Immaculate Heart Academy 87-83 while Hunterdon suffered its only loss to the Eagles, by about 20 points back in late December.) WHS opens today against Middlesex County champion East Brunswick, and would likely face a stiff semifinal test Monday against Somerset County champ Hillsborough, who they beat 86-84 in last year's state semifinals.

Steve Whittington, a first-year WHS chemistry and physics teacher, is in his 17th year as the coach at Metuchen St. Joseph. Last Friday night, the Falcons won their 37th straight Middlesex County championship, edging East Brunswick by 13 points. They are five short of WHS's record 42 straight Union County titles.

### HOCKEY UPDATE

The hockey team defeated Scotch Plains and Cranford, 7-0 and 4-3, on back-to-back days last week. Senior Dane Huber had a natural hat trick, scoring the first three goals against SP-F, while Luke Swedlund turned away eight shots for the shutout. Against Cranford, sophomore Matt Macik's goal with four minutes left was the difference. Dan DoCampo made 19 saves.

### CRYSTAL BALL-GAZING

It's always nice to have an idea of what the future holds for WHS's sports teams. With the delivery last week of the Fall End-of-Season Report, let's check out how the junior varsity and freshmen teams did.

Football: Jayvee 2-4-2; freshmen 9-1. Boys soccer: Jayvee 16-2-1, Union County Tournament champs; freshmen 12-1-1.

Girls soccer: Jayvee 14-0-2, Union County Tournament co-champs; freshmen 6-11-3.

Field hockey: Jayvee 7-4-4; freshmen 8-9-4; eighth grade 3-3-2.

Girls tennis: Jayvee 16-1. Volleyball: Jayvee 19-0, Union County Tournament champions; freshmen 5-13.

That's a combined junior varsity record of 74-9-9, and three UCT jayvee titles.

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